REMARKS:

This paper is herewith filed in response to the Examiner's final Office Action mailed on August 20, 2008 for the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application. This office action is a final rejection of claims 1-4 and 9-11 of the application.

More specifically, the Examiner has rejected claims 2-3, and 9-10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regard as the invention; rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tariki (US5,861,917) in combination with Zhang (US7,116,819). The Applicants respectfully disagrees with the rejections.

Claims 2 and 9 have been amended for clarification. Support for the amendments can be found at least in paragraph [0054] of the published application. No new matter is added.

Regarding the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, claims 2 and 9 as amended is seen to address the rejections. The Applicants note that this language is supported at least where the published application discloses:

> "An interpolation process that requires a more complicated operation, an increased amount of operational processing and a greater amount of processing line memory can be employed as another interpolation method. Similarly, a process that requires a more complicated operation, an increased amount of operational processing and a greater amount of processing memory can be employed as an edge enhancement process that is included in other image quality improvement processing," (paragraph [0054]).

The rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, are seen to be overcome and the rejections should be removed.

The Applicants note that the claims are not amended further. The Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the references cited.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) the Applicants respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

The Applicants note that an exemplary embodiment of the invention relates to removing part or all of interpolation processing performed in first interpolation steps by performing intermittent processing steps on input image data on which the first interpolation processing steps have been performed and <u>to perform second interpolation processing steps on data obtained in the removal process</u> so as to prepare a second output image data.

Tariki discloses performing the automatic focusing (AF) control during the electronic zooming control with the AF control signal. In Tariki the AF control signal is formed on the basis of the original image pickup signal which has been intermittently read out in the vertical direction but **which has not undergone** the intermittent-reading/insertion/interpolation processing in the horizontal direction. The Applicants submit that Tariki is not seen to disclose or suggest an apparatus, as in claim 1, which performs the first insertion/interpolation processing in response to the original image pickup signal, thereby after removing a part of or all of them, performs second insertion/interpolation processing.

The Applicants contend that Tariki does not disclose or suggest at least where claim 1 relates to performing a first interpolation processing steps on **input image data so as to prepare a first output image data and intermittently removing at least a part of interpolation processing preformed in the first interpolation processing steps from the first output image data** so as to perform a second interpolation processing step on data obtained in the removal process.

Zhang discloses an image processing apparatus comprising the first interpolation section (First RGB interpolation section 4) and the second interpolation section (Second RGB interpolation section 12). Zhang obtains an output with the adder 8 through **multiplying an output of the first interpolation section by an output of the second interpolation section**. The Applicants contend that Zhang can not be seen to disclose or suggest at least where claim 1 relates to

6

performing at least one of a second interpolation processing step **on data obtained in the removal process.**

The Applicants contend that neither Tariki nor Zhang is seen to relate to performing the second insertion/interpolation processing in response to the output signal from the first insertion/interpolation processing after removing a part of or all of them as similarly indicated in claim 1.

The Applicants submit that for at least the reasons stated neither Tariki not Zhang can be seen to disclose or suggest claim 1 which relates to performing first interpolation processing steps on input image data so as to prepare a first output image data and intermittently removing at least a part of interpolation processing preformed in the first interpolation processing steps from the first output image data so as to perform a second interpolation processing step on data obtained in the removal process.

The Applicants submit that none of the references cited can be seen to disclose or suggest at least where claim 1 recites:

> "a processor configured **to perform first interpolation processing steps on input image data so as to prepare a first output image data**; a retrial module configured to intermittently remove at least a part of interpolation processing **preformed in the first interpolation processing steps from the first output image data**; and the processor further configured to **perform at least one of a second interpolation processing step on data obtained in the removal process** so as to prepare a second output image data."

For at least this reason the Applicants submit that even if the cited references were combined, which is not agreed to as proper, the combination still would not be seen to disclose or suggest claim 1.

For at least the reasons stated the Applicants contend that the rejection of claim 1 is improper and the rejection should be removed.
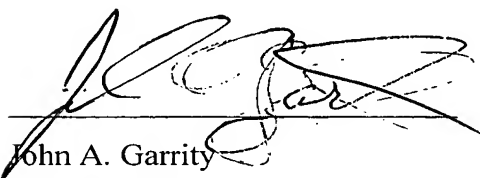
In addition, for at least the reason that claim 4 recites similar features of claim 1 the references cited are not seen to disclose or suggest claim 4 and the rejection should be removed.

Further, for at least the reason that claims 2-3 and 11, and 9-10 depend from claims 1 and 4, resepectively, the references cited are not seen to disclose or suggest claims 2-3 and the rejections of these claims should be removed.

Based on the above explanations and arguments, it is clear that the references cited cannot be seen to disclose or suggest claims 1-4 and 9-11. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of claims 1-4 and 9-11 and to allow all of the pending claims 1-4 or else provide a non-final office Action.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:

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